



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.
Polyxane S. Cobb
Peter Sheinfeld
Larry Ward

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes of November 26, 2013

The meeting of the Cambridge Election Commission was called to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave. Present were Commissioner Ethridge King, *Chair*, Commissioner Polyxane Cobb, Commissioner Peter Sheinfeld, Commissioner Ward, Executive Director Tanya Ford, Assistant Director Lesley Waxman, Nancy Glowka, City Solicitor, and numerous members of the public and municipal candidates.

I: MINUTES

The Minutes of November 20, 2013 were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of November 20, 2013

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner Sheinfeld

The Motion passed: 3-0

II: REPORTS

Executive Director's Report [see attached]

The Executive Director reported that a location for the City Council recount had been secured. It will be held at the Moore Youth Center on Gilmore Street. She said that the space would accommodate the recount, but that it was not extensive. She expressed the hope that candidates would keep that in mind.

Assistant Director's Report [see attached]

The Assistant Director presented a series of documents outlining policy and procedures for the recount and asked that the Commissioners review and vote to accept them. They are:

Motion: To accept [R3] Recount Overview

Moved: Commissioner King

Seconded: Commissioner Cobb

The Motion passed: 4-0

Motion: To accept [R4] Guidelines Regarding Protesting Ballots

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner Sheinfeld

The Motion passed: 4-0

Motion: To accept [R5] Ballot Replicas

Moved: Commissioner King

Seconded: Commissioner Cobb

The Motion passed: 4-0

Motion: To accept [R6] 2013 Instructions for Recount Workers
Moved: Commissioner King
Seconded: Commissioner Ward
The Motion passed: 4-0

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Sheinfeld reported that he assisted with 16 Absentee Ballots at Sancta Maria on November 15, 2013. He reported that he conducted Inspector Training on Saturday, November 23, 2013.

Commissioner Cobb reported that she assisted with 17 Absentee Ballots on November 15, 2013 at Neville Center. She reported that she conducted Warden and Clerk training on Saturday, November 23, 2013.

Commissioner Cobb asked the Executive Director how many workers had been hired for the recount. The Executive Director reported that she had hired approximately 70 workers of whom about 20 were new workers (people who have not worked in elections before.)

III: ACTION AGENDA

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business

New Business

There was no New Business.

IV: PUBLIC COMMENT

A candidate asked for more specifics about the location of the Moore Youth Center. Was it accessible by public transportation and did it have adequate parking for everyone? Commissioners responded that while it was accessible by public transportation, parking was limited.

A lawyer for the Carlone Committee posed several questions which the Commissioners chose to answer as the questions covered many areas most observers would likely have:

How firm did the Post-It flags for the potentially protested ballots hold? He was told that they were used without incident during the recount in 2009.

How would the protests work? He was told that the Commissioners would come to the station where the protested ballot is located to hear the protests, discuss their response, and vote on the protest. The secretary then would record the protest and the decision in the Protested Ballot Book and on the reverse of the ballot.

Could the candidates see the set-up of the recount room prior to Monday Morning? He was told that that would not be possible.

A candidate commented on proportional representation (PR) and indicated that he felt that PR didn't work properly since so few women were elected.

A citizen asked how long did we think the process would take? He was told that was not clear and that Commissioners were reluctant to guess since they hadn't handled a recount with so many candidates (25) in the past.

A lawyer representing Councilor vanBeuzekom asked for access to the Clerk Sheets before the recount.

Councilor Craig Kelley urged the Commission to keep a tight rein on the process to ensure it does not get out of hand. He asked for a digital copy of the Clerk Sheets. He was told that since they had to be redacted of names of voters and workers, that would be complicated but that once the redaction was done, they would be available.

A citizen asked if the Commission required a list of observers before the recount. She was told that that might be helpful but there was no requirement. She was told that observers would be given tags indicating they are formally designated observers of campaigns.

City Councilor vanBeuzekom stated that she felt this was an historic occasion and that she hoped it would be done efficiently with a minimum of expense. She felt there should be no overtime as that would be expensive. She said she wished to be sure that the Commissioners understood how to determine voter intent. She stated that she had requested the Clerk Sheets previously.

The Chair called the Public Comment section of the agenda.

Motion: To adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

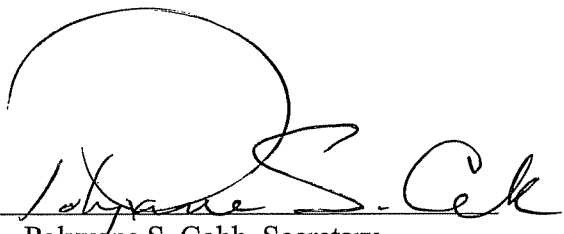
Moved: Commissioner Sheinfeld

Seconded: Commissioner Ward

The Motion passed: 4-0

A True Record

Attested by: _____


Polyxane S. Cobb, Secretary